

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
and Immunization Section**

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**Health Advisory: Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease Outbreak at the University of
Oregon - 20 March, 2015**

Action requested:

- **Be aware of an ongoing outbreak of serogroup B meningococcal disease among students at the University of Oregon (U of Oregon)**
- **Consider meningococcal disease in U of Oregon students who present with acute illness**
- **Report suspected cases to public health at 206-296-4774**

Background:

Six cases of serogroup B meningococcal disease have been reported among U of Oregon students with onsets during JAN 2013 – March 15, 2015. Most cases involved meningococcemia rather than meningitis, and many presented initially with nonspecific symptoms. Because many students will be home or traveling during Spring Break March 20–29, healthcare providers in King County and elsewhere should be aware of the outbreak. Symptoms of meningococcemia may include: fatigue, vomiting, cold hands and feet, chills, severe myalgia and arthralgia, chest pain, abdominal pain, rapid breathing, diarrhea, and, in the later stages, a dark purple rash. Symptoms of meningitis may include nausea, vomiting, photophobia, and altered mental status.

If health care providers receive phone calls regarding serogroup B vaccine availability for persons at U of Oregon and the person is associated with this outbreak, please direct them to call the Oregon Albertsons/Safeway support center at 503-577-4252 to find the nearest location that they can receive the vaccine.

Three meningococcal serogroups (B, C, and Y) circulate and cause disease in the US. In certain outbreaks, vaccination against meningococcal disease is recommended. Until recently, there were no serogroup B meningococcal vaccines licensed for use in the US. In 2014, the FDA licensed the first serogroup B meningococcal vaccine (Trumenba®), approved for use in people 10-25 years as a 3-dose series. In JAN 2015, a second serogroup B meningococcal vaccine (Bexsero®) was approved for use in people 10-25 years as a 2-dose series. While there is no routine recommendation for serogroup B meningococcal vaccines at this time, the vaccines have been used in the setting of serogroup B outbreaks on several university campuses and physicians can use these vaccines for people 10-25 years of age consistent with the labeled indication.

Additional resources

- CDC meningococcal disease web pages, <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/about/index.html>
- Oregon Health Division meningococcal disease outbreak information, <https://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MeningococcalDisease/Pages/Meningococcal-Update.aspx>
- Public Health – Seattle & King County meningitis information, <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/meningococcus.aspx>
- CDC serogroup B meningococcal vaccine info, <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/outbreaks/vaccine-serogroupb.html>